

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

NO-MAR

1 August 1923.

Bureau of Navigation Bulletin #28.

(It is requested that the News Bulletin be circulated among all officers and that items of interest to enlisted men be published to them).

1. Temporary Quarters at Hampton Roads - Officers' families. The following notice was received from the Commanding Officer at Fort Monroe, Va.:

"It is suggested that officers of the Navy Department be advised that an Officers' Mess is maintained at Fort Monroe, Va., primarily for the benefit of Army officers stationed at Fort Monroe. However, in addition to the rooms usually assigned to Army personnel, there are a limited number of rooms available for use by transient officers of the Navy and their families.

It is thought that Naval officers whose ships touch at Hampton Roads might be pleased to learn that arrangements may be made to accommodate themselves and families during their stay in port.

Whenever possible, reservations should be made in advance."

2. Training: The following experiment was carried out in the Ground School at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, with the results shown, in hopes of solving the difficulties encountered by many students in becoming proficient enough in radio code to pass the requirements for Naval Aviation.

On May first, a class of sixty enlisted men was started in Ground School and after nearly four weeks of the course had been completed it was found that twelve members of the class were below the requirements in Radio Code. There was a bare possibility that one or two of this number could be brought up to a mark of 2.50 with a large amount of work, but the remainder would have to be dropped from the class unless something unexpected happened. Also, there remained only two days before the first "weeding out" process was to take place. At this time, J. N. Phinney, C.R.M., U.S.N.

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presented the following suggestion: "That a special class be made up of all the students who were unsatisfactory, or nearly so, in Radio Code; that they secure their bedding and be required to sleep on the tables in the radio classroom of the Ground School Building, wearing the regulation radio helmets all night; and that operators be kept on watch, repeating the same lesson assignment at a constant speed until morning.

Twenty students appeared that night at the Ground School Building to take part in the experiment. The lesson assignment to be used was sent at various speeds and the students' papers were carefully marked in regards to their receiving abilities. Everyone made themselves as comfortable as possible, the lights were turned out and the experiment started. All students were requested to repeat aloud each character as it was received until they became sleepy and then to continue thinking them until they went to sleep. At seven o'clock the following morning a test was made, the same assignment sent at various speeds, and the papers carefully marked as before. Out of the twenty students, three left before this last test; one because of sickness, and the other two giving as their reasons that "they did not believe in the experiment and knew that they had not improved as a result of participating in it." The remaining seventeen who took the test in the morning showed from their two sets of papers improvement in their receiving abilities varying from one-half a word to five words a minute. In assigning marks the following day, after another test, it was found that instead of twelve being unsatisfactory in this subject, only two were in this condition; and these two were the ones that did not believe in the experiment and refused to try to benefit by it.

It is very interesting to watch the students during one of these night periods. If the operator intentionally and continuously makes errors in sending, the students will toss around most unusually in their sleep. If the sending stops or the rate of sending changes appreciably, it is sure to disturb them, and in most cases to arouse them. And even in the midst of their deepest slumbers, the call "S.O.S." at a different rate of speed, will awaken them instantly.

It is now realized that this procedure is of great assistance to those students who are lacking in the natural ability to learn radio code. At least eight students of the present class of Naval Aviation Pilots can thank this method and the radio operators attached to the Ground School as instructors in Radio Code, for their retention in the class at the present

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time. And if this number can be saved in one student class in the manner outlined, why not continue the experiment both here and in general service as well.

3. Quarters for Enlisted Men on Shore Commanding of Districts have been asked to make recommendations as to fitting suitable quarters for all enlisted personnel; using existing facilities, or the construction of new quarters where there are no existing facilities. In this connection, consideration should be given to the fitting of sufficient quarters for married Chief Petty Officers.

4. Enlisted Personnel strength gained during month of July: 67

INCOME

First enlistments	2,380	
Other enlistments plus		
Surrenders & Deliveries	<u>1,388</u>	
		3,768

OUTGO

Honorable discharges	2,159	
Other losses	<u>1,542</u>	
		<u>3,701</u>

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13 August 1923.

Bureau of Navigation News Bulletin #29.

(It is requested that the News Bulletin be circulated among all officers and that items of interest to enlisted men be published to them.)

1. Requirements for Advancement in Rating. Bureau circular letter recently issued amends the requirements for advancement in rating of enlisted men. The length of service required for advancement from seaman 2c, fireman 3c, hospital apprentice 2c, mess attendant 3c and bugler 2c to next higher rating, has been reduced to six months' Naval service, with marks of 3.5 in sobriety and obedience, and no mark less than 2.5 in proficiency in rating for six months and not less than 3.5 for quarter preceding advancement.

Fireman 2c, mess attendants 2c and musicians 2c, to be eligible for next higher rating must have served twelve months in Naval service, with requirements for marks the same as above.

The required service in the cases of non-rated men recommended for promotion to lowest petty officer rating, and mess attendants to officers' cook or steward, has been reduced to twelve months' Naval service.

No change is made in the requirements of one year's service in petty officer ratings for promotion to next higher rating.

Men considered good petty officer material, who are qualified in accordance with requirements except in point of time, may be examined and recommended for promotion to petty officer ratings upon completion of nine months' satisfactory service, and will be placed on the eligibility list as of the date they will have completed the required year's service. Similarly, Commanding Officers may apply the same principle in the cases of non-rated men.

The above changes in requirements for advancement in rating are made primarily for the purpose of providing more equitable promotion to the lowest petty officer ratings. All men, whether they have received their training at trade schools, or wholly at sea, become eligible for advancement with the same length of service. Since advancement to lowest petty officer ratings will hereafter require but one year's Naval service, provision has been made for advancement within the non-rated grades by a corresponding reduction in the service requirements in those grades. In reducing the length of service required for advancement to petty officer ratings, the Bureau in no way wishes to lower the standard of men in the petty officer grades, and extreme care is to be exercised before recommendations for advancement are made.

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2. Warrant Officer Examinations. Candidates have been authorized to take examinations for the following warrant grades on August 20, 1923:

	<u>Vacancies</u>	<u>Applicants</u> <u>to date</u>
Gunner (radio)	58	32
" (electrical)	29	15
" (ordnance)	72	19
Pharmacist	17	56

Only 38 candidates submitted applications for the Machinist examination held on 30 July, 1923. With approximately 198 vacancies to be filled, the number of candidates who appeared for examination, was less than 20% of the total vacancies in that grade.

3. Relief of Temporary and Reserve Officers who Reverted to Former enlisted Status. It is the intention of the Bureau to recommend the enactment of legislation at the next session of Congress for the relief of enlisted men, who, during the war, accepted temporary and reserve commissions of warrants, and who subsequently reverted to their former enlisted status. This action is contemplated in view of the decision of the Comptroller General that service as a commissioned or warrant officer during the war is not "enlisted service", and may not be counted in the computation of longevity pay.

4. Petty Officer Vacancies. The petty officer situation is discussed in detail in letters to the service monthly. Up to the present writing, losses are in excess of recommendations received for advancement from non-rated grades to lowest petty officer ratings, and until the men now in training for advancement to petty officer ratings have qualified on board ship for advancement, little improvement may be expected.

The next monthly letter on the petty officer situation will contain a survey of losses in each of the various groups of petty officer ratings during the fiscal year 1924, showing the average number of men in each group who must be recommended each month for advancement, in order to make up existing shortage and provide for anticipated losses throughout the year.

Inquiries from Commanding Officers in individual cases have brought to the attention of the Bureau the belief of certain non-rated men that they had been previously placed on the eligibility list upon completion of a course of instruction at trade schools, or on some other vessel. As a result, their present Commanding Officers have not submitted recommendations to the Bureau, and these men have been deprived of advancement for which qualified.

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5. Musicians. Bureau of Navigation Circular Letter No. 21-23, of March 17, 1923, which provided increased pay for musicians 1c. and 2c. by the transfer of these ratings to pay grades 3 and 5, respectively, was necessitated by the steady loss of musicians. It is gratifying to note that from March 1 to July 31, 1923, the loss of musicians has been checked, and the number of bandsmen in the Navy has been increased during this period by nearly 100. The number of musicians is still 194 short of requirements, but if the present rate of enlistment is maintained during the balance of the year, by 1 July 1924 the Bureau will be in a position to fill present vacancies and provide bands as authorized in complements.

The Bureau is requesting Commanding Officers throughout the service to report by name, with recommendation as to whether qualified for rating as musicians, all men graduated from the Musicians' School who were transferred to sea before being rated musicians. It is hoped that most of these men will be reported as qualified and as still performing duty in bands, and that they may be rated shortly.

6. First Enlistments. Instructions have been recently issued to the Recruiting Service authorizing first enlistments in the following ratings only:-

Apprentice Seaman

Hospital apprentice first class
Hospital apprentice second class
Musician second class

##Aviation Metalsmith third class
##Aviation Carpenter's mate third class
##Aviation Rigger third class
##Aviation Machinist mate, second class

Patternmaker second class

#Firemen third class
##Motor Machinist's mate second class
##Machinist's mate second class
##Blacksmith second class
Boilermaker second class
Coppersmith second class

NOTE: # The number of first enlistments as fireman third class shall not for the present exceed one-half the total first enlistments at any one station.

NOTE: ## Will be especially authorized by the Bureau in each case.

In certain ratings Recruiting Officers are authorized to reenlistmen with broken service, reenlistments to be made in the same rating as held by the men date of discharge. No first enlistments or reenlistments under broken service have been authorized in any rating where an excess exists.